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issue will include all values and will bear designs of a historic character, each representing some incident in the life of Columbus or picturing something appropriate to its purpose.

The question is asked why the useless thirty or ninety cent stamps, which represent no current single or double rate of postage, should be included in this issue. They are simply used on very heavy registered foreign packages, and it is argued that matters would be simplified if there were simply a twelve-cent stamp for ordinary letter-rate and registration and twenty-five-cent, fifty-cent, and one-dollar stamps for use on extra heavy packages.

The thirty and ninety-cent stamps are relics of the old high postal rates of 1860, but both foreign and domestic postal rates have been cut down so that they serve no purpose now except to confuse postal clerks.

One of the scenes to be illustrated on the Jubilee stamps undoubtedly is the landing of Columbus. The convent of La Rabida, where Columbus was housed just before his departure from Spain on his voyage of discovery, may be the chief figure of another. The head of Columbus will decorate one of the stamps, probably the two-cent stamp. It is not the intention of the department to retire permanently the current issue of stamps, but it is likely that the issue will be suspended for a year, and that at the end of that time the dies and plates for the Jubilee stamps will be destroyed, and the old dies and plates will be delivered to the contractor again. The intention now is to have only one portrait on any of the stamps, that of Columbus: Gen. Hazen expects to have them on sale on Jan. 1.

A REAL BOOK MISER

The *Evening Sun*, of this city, professes to have discovered, in a tumbledown house in Brooklyn, a septuagenarian book-crank named Cronin, who owns a collection of over 2,500 books. His appearance is described as being that of a beggar, but he is reputed to have money. His library is said to contain such rarities as the 1551 Bug, the 1560 Breeches, the 1568 Treacle Bibles, and the Macklin Bible of 1820. Editions of Shakespeare, a first edition of Walton's "Angler," a first of Buffon, in 127 volumes; a complete set of Audubon's "Natural History," ancient manuscripts and prints in vast variety, are also ascribed to this curious collector, whose collection is also said to be strong in Americana. He resides on Hoyt street, at the number 221.

The fifth volume of the Spitzer Catalogue has just been distributed by Mr. J. W. Bouton to the subscribers in this country.

A copy of Mr. G. W. Child's "Recollections" has been privately illustrated by Walter H. Barr of Philadelphia, with portraits and autograph letters.

Some autograph collectors of West Chester, Pa., are Dr. Jesse C. Green, Dr. George M. Philips, Harry Hause, Wilmer Thompson and Fred. Woodward. The collection of Harry Hause is made specially interesting by the fact that he has made it his pride to secure a portrait of each person whose autograph he secures. The collection of Dr. Philips derives great value from the fact that his autographs are directed to himself by the writers.

The last addition to the British National Gallery is an excellent and characteristic group of six portrait heads by Hogarth, which Sir Frederick Burton was so fortunate as to buy at a very low price at the Wedderburn sale. This picture, which has not been engraved, and which was last exhibited in 1817, at the British Institute, is mentioned by Nichols as "The Five Servants" of Hogarth, and at the sale of Mrs. Hogarth's collection, more than a hundred years ago, realized £5 15s. 6d.

The present year is the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Montreal, and, in view of the event, a great exhibit of relics and antiquities will be made one of the principal attractions at the exhibition which opens in that city in September next. It is also proposed that the exhibit shall form one of the attractions in the Canadian exhibit at the World's Fair in Chicago. These souvenirs of the past will be of a most interesting nature. There will be old documents, seals, medals, swords and arms, coins, views of old buildings and fortifications, old family jewels and family plate, and a special feature will be the exhibition of between four and five hundred historical portraits, embracing those of Champlain, Jacques Cartier, Maisonneuve, Laval, the first bishop; Falon, the first royal intendant; the victorious Wolfe and the defeated Montcalm, soldiers, missionaries, nuns, politicians—in fact, all who in the old days helped to shape the destinies of the country. Old family furniture, etc., will also be exhibited, and the collection is expected to be one of the most interesting features of the exhibition.

NUMISMATIC NOTES

TWO French coins of exceptional rarity and interest have attention called to them by a writer in the *Youth's Companion* of Boston. One was struck off just the moment of the assumption of the reins of empire by Napoleon III. Only the die for the obverse or head of a new imperial coin had been completed, and by some accident, or possibly by mischievous design, a coin was struck off which bore the head of "Napoleon III, Emperor," on one side, and "French Republic" on the other. With the other coin a singular story is connected. While Louis Napoleon was "prince-president," and just before he made himself emperor, a decree was issued ordering a five-franc silver piece to be coined bearing his image. The dies were made, and one coin was struck off as a sample and sent to the prince-president for approval. But some time passed before he examined it. When at last he gave it his attention he was annoyed to find that he had been represented on the coin with a "love-lock," or hooked lock of hair on the temple, which he did actually wear at that period, but which he thought unsuitable to so dignified and permanent a representation of himself as an effigy upon a coin. The prince-president sent for the director of the mint, and ordered him to remove the "love-lock." Then he found that his silence with regard to the piece had been taken for approval, and that the stamping of the coins had commenced. The work was stopped and the image was deprived of its undignified lock; but the twenty-three coins that had already been struck off were not destroyed, and are now regarded as of great value.

Mr. Francis Worcester Doughty has privately printed, and in tasteful shape, his paper on the "Evidences of Man in the Drift," which he read before the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society in this city on March 28th. last. This original and well-composed paper was largely commented on by the daily press at the time it was made public.

At Cahors, France, the workmen on the foundations for a convent unearthed a large house of the Gallo-Roman period, the mosaic floors of which are in place and enough of the walls to reveal frescoes in a fair state of preservation. It is supposed to have been destroyed in the sixth century, when Theodebert sacked the town. Pottery fragments, bronzes and coins are found on the site.

Two out-of-town coin collectors who are said to have accumulated cabinets of value are Mr. Peter Gates, of Main street, Peekskill, N. Y., and Mr. James Conahan, of East Broad street, Chester, Pa.

It is a somewhat singular fact that the legend "E Pluribus Unum," which has appeared on different coins of the United States for more than a hundred years, was never authorized by law, made legal by act of Congress or any other body having that power vested within itself. Its first appearance on a coin was in 1786, before the establishment of a United States mint. At that time there was a private coining establishment at Newburg, N. Y., and the well-known motto was first inscribed upon a coin struck at that "mint." It was a copper coin of the value of about one penny, or something near two cents. They are now very valuable, and but few coin collectors can boast of possessing such rarities, says the *Philadelphia Press*. In 1787 a goldsmith by the name of Brasher coined a \$16 gold piece, which is now one of the rarest of coins, there being but four specimens of it known, all of which are held at \$3,000 each. This rare piece has the well-known motto stamped upon it in this mixed form: "Unium E Pluribus."

The *Washington Star* has printed some paragraphs on European paper money. It brings forward the fact that in Great Britain the privilege of issuing paper money can be obtained by corporations other than banks, from the Government. One gentleman in this city has quite a collection of these private bank notes.

In a recent issue of the *New York Sunday News* a writer on the subject of campaign medals states that in the cabinet of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society of New York, and in those of Mr. Robert Hewett, Mr. Wm. Poillon, and others of its members, are to be found the best specimens of these medals that mark in their way epochs in our national history. Campaign medals date back to Jackson's campaign of 1828. There is, it is true, one medal dating back to 1824, but this is the John Quincy Adams "Presidential" and not a campaign medal. In